

Probably fair during the day, with slightly warmer easterly to southerly winds; threatening Monday night.

WILL NOT EVACUATE CRETE

Little Greece to Plainly Tell the Big Powers So Today.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Summary of King George's Answer Continued. Unsettled Condition of the Island Proves Futility of All Measures of Reform—Autonomy Rests With Cretans.

Athens, March 7.—The time for Greece's formal reply to the ultimatum of the combined powers is rapidly drawing nigh, and though it is generally known that that reply will be a refusal of the terms that are sought to be imposed there is intense anxiety that the answer be delivered. It is known that all Europe is alert to hear the words of Greece, which, perhaps, will mean much to the armed millions who have never actually followed the given trade of war.

It is believed that the life or death of thousands of men hangs upon the words that Greece will speak, and these words therefore are not to be lightly spoken. But Greece is firm in her resolve not to bow to the demands of those who would have her practically surrender her independence to go to meet any extreme of war to support the rule of Turkey. The hitherto impotent concert of Europe will in a few hours find its embarrassments increased by the defiance of Greece, and the Greeks will accept the embitterment of war rather than drag their national honor in the dust by submitting to the orders of the allies of the Turk.

The reply to the ultimatum of the powers which Greece will hand to the diplomats tomorrow, when the time expires in which a reply can be made, will recall that Greece, in 1896, in defiance to the wish of the powers used her influence with the Cretans to induce them to accept reforms offered by Turkey. It will point out that the continued unsettled state of the island is proof of the futility of the measures of reform.

With regard to the autonomy of the island, the reply will state that it is for the Cretans to decide whether they will accept it or not.

It will declare that the evacuation of Crete by Greece is impossible, because peace, to restore which Greek troops and warships were sent to the island, remains seriously disturbed.

It is evident that the powers intend to carry into effect their threat to blockade the Piræus, the port of Athens, as soon as Greece's answer is delivered to them. A number of the warships of Great Britain and the other powers are now in the vicinity of the Piræus, and it is believed that they are there for the sole purpose of blockading the port.

The one bright spot in the situation today is that the enforcement of the recent decree calling out the last two remaining classes of reserves has been postponed. In diplomatic circles this is taken to mean that there will be afforded an opportunity for further negotiations, though the temper of the people is against any further dilly-dallying with words.

Write a number of Greek engineers were engaged in repairing the main road near Melon, on the Greek frontier, presumably for the purpose of facilitating the passage of troops, they were stopped by a body of Turkish troops. A rumor reached here today that a serious encounter between Turkish and Greek troops had taken place on the frontier, but though inquiries have been made it has been impossible to confirm the story. It is thought very probable that the report originated in the stoppage by Turkish troops of the work of the Greek engineers near Melon.

BOLD ALL POSITIONS.

That Is What Col. Vassos Is Instructed To Do by King George.

Canea, March 7.—It is believed here, the reply of Greece to the demands of the powers being a positive refusal to obey, that a bloody struggle is therefore inevitable, unless the powers recede from their position. It is known that Col. Vassos, the commander of the Greek army of occupation, has received instructions from King George to hold all the positions in the island now occupied by the Greek troops, and to prepare to resist to the bitter end any attempt on the part of anybody to dislodge him.

Last night the insurgents, who are besieging the block house at Malaxa, made an attempt to blow the place up with dynamite, but were frustrated by the vigilance of the modern defenders. For several hours after the failure of the attempt there was a lively fusillade, but the result is not known here.

EAGER TO RESPOND.

Five Hundred Greeks in Chicago Ready to Enlist.

Chicago, March 7.—Five hundred Greeks in this city are eager to respond to the call to arms issued yesterday by M. Skouzis, Greek minister of foreign affairs, and every effort is being made to get funds to carry the Athenians to their native soil.

A mass meeting was held in the Greek Church this afternoon, at which many speeches were made.

Yesterday a cablegram was sent to the consul general in New York, concerning the matter of funds, but no reply has been received.

TURKEY GLADLY ASSENTS.

Sultan Agrees to Everything the Powers Have Proposed.

Constantinople, March 7.—The diplomats here have received the answer of the sultan to the collective note presented on Tuesday last setting forth the desires of the powers regarding the granting of autonomy to Crete under the suzerainty of Turkey. The sultan assents to the terms of the powers, and says it hopes there will be a definite understanding between itself and the powers respecting the details of the autonomy to be granted.

The reply beats out the statement of the United Associated Presses that the sultan is rather glad than otherwise to

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